Procurement of milk by private companies

1699. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale of milk procurement by newly established private companies for conversion into value added products is threatening to disrupt liquid milk availability in the capital; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to see that the capital does not face acute milk shortage, particularly in the ensuing summer season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Dtes not arise.

Australian cooperation in the field of pulse production

1700. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Western Australia is shortly setting up an office in India and has planned to produce pulses for India from next year;

(b) if so, where is the office going to be located;

(c) the nature of the assistance which Western Australia proposes to render to India for production of pulses;

(d) whether any long-term plan has been or is being formulated to make the country self-sufficient in the production of various kinds of pulses; and

(e) if so, its broad features and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) Western Australia is considering to open an office in India. The other details of location and type of assistance has not yet been finalised.

(d) and (e) To increase production of pulses National Pulses Development Programme (NPDP) is under implementation in 26 States and Union Territories. Under this programme assistance is provided for the production and distribution of seeds, Rhzobin culture, farm implements, spintler-set. In addition, frontline demonstration and block demonstration are organised in the farmers' field to transfer the production technology. The training programme for extension workers and farmers are also organised. This programme will continue during 8th Plan upto 1996-97.

Fish production in Maharashtra and Assam

1701. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total fish production in Maharashtra and Assam;

(b) out of this how much is the fresh water fish production;

(c) what is the total potential of fish production in the above States per year; and

(d) what is being done to exploit the potential fully?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The total and freshwater fish production in Maharashtra and Assam during 1993-94 is as under:

Fish Production (.0000 tonnes)

	Total	Freshwater
Maharashtra	433.6	83.2
Assam	151.6	151.6

(c) The potential for fish production in Maharashtra in the marine sector lies within 112000 sq. kms. of continental shelf along its 720 kms of coast line. In the inland fisheries sector, the potential